

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

CASE NO.

**OSCAR HERRERA,**

Plaintiff,

vs.

**MANDARIN ORIENTAL MIAMI, INC.,  
a foreign for-profit corporation,**

Defendant.

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**COMPLAINT**

Plaintiff, Oscar Herrera, through undersigned counsel, sues Defendant MANDARIN ORIENTAL MIAMI, INC., a foreign for-profit corporation, and alleges as follows:

1. This is an action for declaratory and injunctive relief, attorney's fees, costs, and litigation expenses for unlawful disability discrimination in violation of Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. §§12181-12189 ("ADA"), as amended, and 28 C.F.R. Part 36.
2. This Court has jurisdiction over this case based on federal question jurisdiction, 28 U.S.C. §1331 and the provisions of the ADA. Plaintiff seeks declaratory and injunctive relief pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§2201 and 2202.
3. Venue is proper in this Court as all actions complained of herein and injuries and damages suffered occurred in the Southern District of Florida.
4. Plaintiff OSCAR HERRERA is a resident of Miami, Florida, is *sui juris*, and is disabled as defined by the ADA and ADA Amendments Act of 2008, 42 U.S.C. §12101 ("ADAAA").

5. Plaintiff is and at all relevant times has been a blind and visually disabled person who has been medically diagnosed with complete blindness as a result of trauma to both eyes. Because of his condition, Plaintiff is completely blind and thus is substantially limited in performing one or more major life activities, including, but not limited to, seeing, accurately visualizing his world, and adequately traversing obstacles. As such, he is a member of a protected class under the ADA, 42 U.S.C. §12102(1)-(2), the regulations implementing the ADA set forth at 28 CFR §§36.101, *et seq.*, and 42 U.S.C. §3602(h). Plaintiff further is an advocate of the rights of similarly situated disabled persons and is a “tester” for the purposes of asserting his civil rights and monitoring, ensuring, and determining whether places of public accommodation and/or their respective and associated websites are in compliance with the ADA and any other applicable disability laws, regulations, and ordinances.

6. Because he is blind, Plaintiff cannot use his computer without the assistance of appropriate and available auxiliary aids, screen reader software, and other technology and assistance. Screen reader software translates the visual internet into an auditory equivalent. At a rapid pace, the software reads the content of a webpage to the user. “The screen reading software uses auditory cues to allow a visually impaired user to effectively use websites. For example, when using the visual internet, a seeing user learns that a link may be ‘clicked,’ which will bring him to another webpage, through visual cues, such as a change in the color of the text (often text is turned from black to blue). When the sighted user's cursor hovers over the link, it changes from an arrow symbol to a hand. The screen reading software uses auditory -- rather than visual -- cues to relay this same information. When a sight impaired individual reaches a link that may be ‘clicked on,’ the software reads the link to the user, and after reading the text of the link says the word ‘clickable.’...Through a series of auditory cues read aloud by the screen reader, the visually

impaired user can navigate a website by listening and responding with his keyboard.” *Andrews v. Blick Art Materials, LLC*, 286 F.Supp.3d 365, 374 (E.D.N.Y.2017).

7. Defendant is a foreign for-profit corporation authorized to do business and doing business in the State of Florida. Defendant owns, operates, and/or controls a chain of 40 hotels, including the hotel Plaintiff intended to patronize in the near future located at 500 Brickell Key Drive, Miami, Florida.

8. Plaintiff’s visual disability limits him in the performance of major life activities, including sight, and he requires assistive technologies, auxiliary aids, and services for effective communication, including communication in connection with his use of a computer.

9. Plaintiff frequently accesses the internet. Because he is blind, to effectively communicate and comprehend information available on the internet and thereby access and comprehend websites, Plaintiff uses commercially available screen reader software to interface with the various websites.

10. At all times material hereto, Defendant was and still is an organization that owns, operates, and/or controls a chain of 40 hotels under the name “Mandarin Oriental”. Each “Mandarin Oriental” hotel is open to the public. As the owner, operator, and/or controller of these hotels, Defendant is defined as a place of “public accommodation” within meaning of the ADA because Defendant is a private entity which owns and/or operates “an inn, hotel, motel, or other place of lodging, except for an establishment located within a building that contains not more than five rooms for rent or hire and that is actually occupied by the proprietor of such establishment as the residence of such proprietor,” per 42 U.S.C. §12181(7)(A) and 28 C.F.R. §36.104.

11. Because Defendant is a hotel open to the public, each of Defendant's physical hotels is a place of public accommodation subject to the requirements of the ADA, 42 U.S.C. §12182 and §12181(7)(A), and the ADA's implementing regulations, 28 C.F.R. Part 36.

12. Defendant also owns, controls, maintains, and/or operates an adjunct website, <https://www.mandarinoriental.com/en/miami/brickell-key> (the "Website"). One of the functions of the Website is to provide the public information on the locations of Defendant's physical hotels. Defendant also sells to the public its room accommodations and related hotel services, including dining, through the Website, which acts as a critical point of sale of and reservation for Defendant's room accommodations and services that are also available for reservation and purchase in, from, and through Defendant's Miami physical hotel. In addition, the Website allows the public to make reservations to dine in the physical hotel's restaurants, book appointments for spa services in the physical hotel's spa, purchase gift cards for use online and in the physical hotel and sign up for an online account and emailer to receive exclusive offers, benefits, promotions, invitations, and discounts for use both online and in the physical hotel.

13. The Website also services Defendant's physical hotels by providing information on available services, tips and advice, editorials, sales campaigns, events, and other information that Defendant is interested in communicating to its customers.

14. Because the Website allows the public the ability to secure information about the locations of Defendant's physical hotels, reserve and purchase room accommodations that are also available for reservation and purchase in and from the physical hotels, make reservations to dine in the physical hotel's restaurants, book appointments for spa services in the physical hotel's spa, purchase gift cards for use online and in the physical hotels, and sign up for an online account and emailer to receive exclusive online offers, benefits, promotions, invitations, and discounts for use

both online and in the physical hotels, the Website has a nexus to, and is an extension of and gateway to, the goods, services, privileges, and advantages of Defendant's physical hotels, which are places of public accommodation under the ADA. As an extension of and service, privilege, and advantage provided by a place of public accommodation as defined under the ADA, the Website is an extension of the services, privileges, and advantages made available to the general public by Defendant at and through its brick-and-mortar locations and businesses.

15. Because the public can view, reserve, and purchase Defendant's room accommodations and services through the Website that are also offered for reservation and sale in Defendant's physical hotels, thus having the Website act as a critical point of reservation and sale for Defendant's room accommodations and services, make reservations to dine in the physical hotel's restaurants, book appointments for spa services in the physical hotel's spa, purchase gift cards for use online and in the physical hotels, and sign up for an online account and emailer to receive exclusive online offers, benefits, promotions, invitations, and discounts for use both online and in the physical hotels, the Website is an extension of, and gateway to the physical hotels, which are places of public accommodation pursuant to the ADA, 42 U.S.C. §12181(7)(A). As such, the Website is a necessary service, privilege, and advantage of Defendant's brick-and-mortar hotel that must comply with all requirements of the ADA, must not discriminate against individuals with visual disabilities, and must not deny those individuals the same full and equal access to and enjoyment of the goods, services, privileges, and advantages afforded the non-visually disabled public both online and in the physical hotel.

16. At all times material hereto, Defendant was and still is an organization owning, operating, and/or controlling the Website. Since the Website is open to the public through the internet, by this nexus the Website is an intangible service, privilege, and advantage of Defendant's

brick-and-mortar hotel that must comply with all requirements of the ADA, must not discriminate against individuals with visual disabilities, and must not deny those individuals the same full and equal access to and enjoyment of the goods, services, privileges, and advantages as afforded the non-visually disabled public both online and in the physical hotel. As such, Defendant has subjected itself and the Website to the requirements of the ADA.

17. Plaintiff is and has been a customer who is interested in patronizing, and intends to patronize in the near future once the Website's access barriers are removed or remedied, Defendant's Miami physical hotel, and to check hotel hours, room accommodations, and hotel services, reserve and purchase room accommodations and hotel services online, make restaurant reservations, book spa treatments, purchase gift cards for use online and in the physical hotels, and sign up for an online account and emailer to receive exclusive online offers, benefits, promotions, invitations, and discounts for use both online and in the physical hotels. In the alternative, Plaintiff intends to monitor the Website in the near future as a tester to ascertain whether it has been updated to interact properly with screen reader software.

18. The opportunity to shop and pre-shop Defendant's room accommodations and services, book rooms, restaurant reservations, and spa treatments online, purchase gift cards for use online and in the physical hotels, and sign up for an online account and emailer to receive exclusive online offers, benefits, promotions, invitations, and discounts for use both online and in the physical hotels from his home are important and necessary accommodations for Plaintiff because traveling outside of his home as a visually disabled individual is often a difficult, hazardous, frightening, frustrating, and confusing experience. Defendant has not provided its business information in any other digital format that is accessible for use by blind and visually disabled individuals using screen reader software.

19. Like many consumers, Plaintiff accesses several websites at a time to help plan his hotel visits and to compare hotel room accommodations and services, prices, sales, discounts, and promotions. Plaintiff may look at several dozen websites to compare features, discounts, services, promotions, and prices.

20. Beginning in August 2024, Plaintiff attempted on a number of occasions to utilize the Website to browse through the available room accommodations, hotel services, and online offers to educate himself as to the room accommodations and hotel services, sales, discounts, and promotions being offered, learn about the brick-and-mortar hotel, check hotel hours, and check room accommodation and hotel service pricing with the intent to make a reservation and purchase through the Website or in and from the physical hotel. Plaintiff also attempted to access and utilize the Website in his capacity as a tester to determine whether it was accessible to blind and visually disabled persons such as himself who use screen reader software to access and navigate company websites.

21. Plaintiff utilizes available screen reader software that allows individuals who are blind and visually disabled to communicate with websites. However, Defendant's Website contains access barriers that prevent free and full use by blind and visually disabled individuals using keyboards and available screen reader software. These access barriers, one or more of which were experienced by Plaintiff, are pervasive and, as confirmed by Plaintiff's expert, include the following (with reference to the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines ("WCAG") 2.1 Level A and AA):

a) Version A Guideline 1.2.1 – Audio-only and Video-only (Pre-recorded). (Alternatives to video-only and audio-only content are provided.) – Here, there is no text alternative for videos present on dining webpages to describe what is being displayed for non-

sighted users. Additionally, the play/pause button and volume buttons are announced only as "button." The progress slider is not accessible with the tab key.

b) Version Guideline 1.3.2 – Meaningful Sequence. (Content is presented in a meaningful order.) -- Here, the floor plans and function/meeting specs on the Mandarin Oriental fact sheet cannot be accurately read with the screen reader. Arrow key navigation moves focus randomly through the text displayed on the multiple floor plans, the context of which is unclear. As focus moves through the rows of data in the function/meeting space chart, the screen reader announces all values at once without their associated labels. Units of measurement are not announced, and the significance of the values is unclear.

c) Version A Guideline 1.3.2 - Meaningful Sequence (2). (Content is presented in a meaningful order.) – Here, menus are not accessible due to the announcement of drink labels and prices all together. For example, as focus moves through the list of :”Rum” on a menu, those with a year in their label are announced in conjunction with the price, resulting in the announcement of one long number that would not make sense to a non-sighted user. (Ex: A sighted user reads "Santa Teresa 1976 20" and the screen reader announces "Santa Teresa 1,976 20.")

d) Version A Guideline 2.1.1 – Keyboard. (Website must be accessible by keyboard only (no mouse or other pointing device).) – Here, the additional ”dining type” tabs on the Dine webpage (which filter restaurants by type of dining) are not accessible with tab or arrow key navigation. The ”View All” tab is already open on the page. As a result, a keyboard-only user cannot filter restaurants by dining type.

e) Version A Guideline 2.1.1 - Keyboard (2). (Website must be accessible by keyboard only (no mouse or other pointing device).) – Her, a keyboard-only user cannot successfully book a room on the Website. The ”Book” button opens a pop-up which is announced



and given focus. Tabbing moves to the "Check In" tab, announced as "select your check in date, tab selected 1 of 2." Neither tab nor arrow key navigation move focus to the "Check Out" tab or to any of the clickable dates below. The user cannot access the "Confirm" button until a check in/out date is selected, which can only be done with a mouse.

f) Version A Guideline 2.4.3 – Focus Order. (Website provides focus in a logical order that preserves meaning and operability.) – Here, the "Reserve" links found on various dining webpages on the Website open pop-ups that are not announced or given focus. The user must select the "Proceed" button on the pop-up to be redirected to the third-party site for booking. Tabbing continues focus on the webpage behind the pop-up. This is also the case with other links like "Submit Enquiry" and "Upcoming Events" found on dining webpages and for the "My Card" link found on the Gift Cards & Shop M.O. webpage.

e) Version A Guideline 2.4.3 - Focus Order (2). (Website provides focus in a logical order that preserves meaning and operability.) – Here, the additional slide buttons for carousels on the site are not accessible with tab or arrow key navigation. Only the current slide button and its associated "See Details" link is given tab focus and announced. The "Next" button used to move between slides is given tab focus, and selecting it scrolls the carousel accordingly. However, at this point, tabbing does not move focus to the "See Details" buttons for the newly visible slides in the carousel. Instead, tabbing continues focus down the webpage.

f) Version A Guideline 3.3.1 – Error Identification. (Input errors are clearly identified) – Here, there are no error notifications announced on the gift card webpage. If the user selects the "Add to Cart" button without completing the required fields, red boxes appear around the invalid fields, but nothing is announced by the screen reader. Tabbing continues focus down the webpage and it is unclear that errors occurred.

g) Version A Guideline 4.1.2 – Name, Role, Value. (All interactive elements are labeled with a descriptive name, role, and current value.) – Here, the navigation links are not announced as links. As tab focus moves over the links, the screen reader announces their headings only (out of 9). For example, the "Stay" link is announced as "stay 1 of 9."

h) Version A Guideline 1.4.5 – Images of Text. (Website doesn't use images of text (screen readers are unable to read).) – Her, floor plans are not accessible. These are presented as images of text which the screen reader cannot read. Arrow key navigation moves focus over the floor plan and announces "Unlabeled graphic clickable..."

22. Plaintiff attempted to locate an "accessibility" notice, statement, or policy on the Website that would direct him to a webpage with contact information for disabled individuals who have questions or concerns about, or who are having difficulties communicating with, the Website. However, Plaintiff was unable to do so because no such link or notice, statement, or policy existed on the Website.

23. The fact that Plaintiff could not communicate with or within the Website left him feeling excluded, frustrated, and humiliated, and gave him a sense of isolation and segregation, as he is unable to participate in the same shopping dining experience, with the same access to the room accommodation and services, sales, services, discounts, and promotions, as provided at the Website and in the physical hotel as the non-visually disabled public.

24. Plaintiff desires and intends in the near future once the Website's access barriers are removed or remedied, to patronize Defendant's Miami hotel and to use the Website, but he is presently unable to fully and equally do so as he is unable to effectively communicate with Defendant due to his blindness and the Website's access barriers. Alternatively, as a tester using screen reader software, Plaintiff is unable to effectively access, navigate, and communicate with

Defendant through the Website due to his blindness and the Website's access barriers. Thus, Plaintiff and others who are blind and/or with visual disabilities will suffer continuous and ongoing harm from Defendant's intentional acts, omissions, policies, and practices as set forth herein unless properly enjoined by this Court.

25. Because of the nexus between Defendant's Miami physical hotel and the Website, and the fact that the Website clearly provides support for and is connected to Defendant's physical hotel for its operation and use, the Website is an intangible service, privilege, and advantage of Defendant's brick-and-mortar hotel that must comply with all requirements of the ADA, must not discriminate against individuals with disabilities, and must not deny those individuals the same full and equal access to and enjoyment of the goods, services, privileges, and advantages as afforded the non-visually disabled public both online and in the physical hotel, which is a place of public accommodation subject to the requirements of the ADA.

26. On information and belief, Defendant has not initiated a Web Accessibility Policy to ensure full and equal use of the Website by individuals with disabilities.

27. On information and belief, Defendant has not instituted a Web Accessibility Committee to ensure full and equal use of Website by individuals with disabilities.

28. On information and belief, Defendant has not designated an employee as a Web Accessibility Coordinator to ensure full and equal use of the Website by individuals with disabilities.

29. On information and belief, Defendant has not instituted a Web Accessibility User Accessibility Testing Group to ensure full and equal use of the Website by individuals with disabilities.

30. On information and belief, Defendant has not instituted a User Accessibility Testing Group to ensure full and equal use of the Website by individuals with disabilities.

31. On information and belief, Defendant has not instituted a Bug Fix Priority Policy.

32. On information and belief, Defendant has not instituted an Automated Web Accessibility Testing program.

33. Defendant has not created and instituted a useful and effective Specialized Customer Assistance line or service or email contact mode for customer assistance for the visually disabled.

34. Defendant has not created and instituted on the Website a useful and effective page for individuals with disabilities, nor displayed a proper link and information hotline, nor created a proper information portal explaining when and how Defendant will have the Website, applications, and digital assets accessible to the visually disabled and blind communities.

35. The Website does not meet the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (“WCAG”) 2.1 Level A or higher Levels of web accessibility.

36. Defendant has not disclosed to the public any intended audits, changes, or lawsuits to correct the inaccessibility of the Website to visually disabled individuals who want the safety and privacy of purchasing Defendant’s room accommodations and services offered on the Website and in the physical hotel from their homes.

37. Defendant thus has not provided full and equal access to, and enjoyment of, the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, and accommodations provided by and through the Website and the physical hotel in contravention of the ADA.

38. Public accommodations under the ADA must ensure that their places of public accommodation provide effective communication for all members of the general public, including individuals with visual disabilities such as Plaintiff.

39. The broad mandate of the ADA is to provide an equal opportunity for individuals with disabilities to participate in and benefit from all aspects of American civic and economic life. That mandate extends to internet shopping websites such as the Website at issue in the instant action.

40. Defendant is, and at all relevant times has been, aware of the barriers to effective communication within the Website which prevent individuals with visual disabilities from the means to comprehend information presented therein.

41. Defendant is, and at all relevant times has been, aware of the need to provide full access to all visitors to the Website.

42. The barriers that exist on the Website result in discriminatory and unequal treatment of individuals with visual disabilities, including Plaintiff.

43. Plaintiff has no plain, adequate, or complete remedy at law to redress the wrongs alleged hereinabove, and this suit for declaratory judgment and injunctive relief is his only means to secure adequate and complete redress from Defendant's unlawful and discriminatory practices in connection with the Website's access and operation.

44. Notice to Defendant is not required because of Defendant's failure to cure the violations.

45. Enforcement of Plaintiff's rights under the ADA is right and just pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§2201 and 2202.

46. Plaintiff has retained the undersigned attorneys to represent him in this case and has agreed to pay them a reasonable fee for their services.

**COUNT I – VIOLATION OF THE ADA**

47. Plaintiff re-alleges paragraphs 1 through 46 as if set forth fully herein.

48. Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §12181(7)(A), Defendant is a public accommodation under the ADA and thus is subject to the ADA.

49. Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §12181(7)(A), the Website is covered under the ADA because it provides the general public with the ability to locate and learn about Defendant's physical hotel, reserve and purchase Defendant's room accommodations that also available for reservation and purchase in and from the physical hotel, book and make dinner reservations to dine in the restaurants at the physical hotel, book spa appointments and services at the physical hotel, purchase gift cards for use online and in the physical hotels, and sign up for an online account and emailer to receive exclusive offers, benefits, promotions, invitations, and discounts for use both online and in the physical hotel. The Website thus is an extension of, gateway to, and intangible service, privilege, and advantage of Defendant's physical hotel. Further, the Website also serves to augment Defendant's physical hotel by providing the public information about all of Defendant's hotels and by educating the public as to Defendant's available rooms, services, and branded merchandise sold through the Website and also available for reservation and purchase in, from, and through the physical hotels.

50. Under Title III of the ADA, 42 U.S.C. §12182(b)(1)(A)(II), it is unlawful discrimination to deny individuals with disabilities or a class of individuals with disabilities an opportunity to participate in or benefit from the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodation, which is equal to the opportunities afforded to other individuals.

51. Specifically, under Title III of the ADA, 42 U.S.C. §12182(b)(2)(A)(II), unlawful discrimination includes, among other things, “a failure to make reasonable modifications in policies, practices, or procedures, when such modifications are necessary to afford such goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations to individuals with disabilities, unless the entity can demonstrate that making such modifications would fundamentally alter the nature of such goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages or accommodations.”

52. In addition, under Title III of the ADA, 42 U.S.C. §12182(b)(2)(A)(III), unlawful discrimination includes, among other things, “a failure to take such steps, as may be necessary to ensure that no individual with a disability is excluded, denied services, segregated or otherwise treated differently than other individuals because of the absence of auxiliary aids and services, unless the entity can demonstrate that taking such steps would fundamentally alter the nature of the good, service, facility, privilege, advantage, or accommodation being offered or would result in an undue burden.”

53. Defendant’s Website must comply with the ADA, but it does not as specifically alleged hereinabove and below.

54. Because of the inaccessibility of the Website, individuals with visual disabilities are denied full and equal access to and enjoyment of the goods, information, and services that Defendant has made available to the public on the Website and in the physical hotel in violation of 42 U.S.C. §12101, *et seq*, and as prohibited by 42 U.S.C. §12182, *et seq*.

55. The Website was subsequently visited by Plaintiffs expert in September 2024 and the expert determined that many of the same access barriers that Plaintiff had initially encountered, as well as numerous additional access barriers, existed. Despite being a defendant in prior ADA website accessibility lawsuits, one or more of which likely resulted in a confidential

settlement agreement that obligated Defendant to fully remediate the Website, Defendant has made insufficient material changes or improvements to the Website to enable its full and equal use, and enjoyment by, and accessibility to, blind and visually disabled persons such as Plaintiff. Defendant furthermore has not disclosed to the public any intended audits, changes, or lawsuits to correct the inaccessibility of the Website to visually disabled individuals, nor has it posted on the Website a useful or effective “accessibility” notice, statement, or policy to provide blind and visually disabled person such as Plaintiff with a viable alternative means to access and navigate the Website. Defendant thus has failed to make reasonable modifications in its policies, practices, or procedures when such modifications are necessary to afford goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations to individuals with disabilities, in violation of 28 C.F.R. §36.302.

56. More violations may be present on other pages of the Website, which can and will be determined and proven through the discovery process in this case.

57. Further, the Website does not offer or include the universal symbol for the disabled that would permit disabled individuals to access the Website’s accessibility information and accessibility facts.

58. There are readily available, well-established guidelines on the internet for making websites accessible to the blind and visually disabled. These guidelines have been followed by other large business entities in making their websites accessible. Examples of such guidelines include, but are not limited to, adding alt-text to graphics and ensuring that all functions can be performed using a keyboard. Incorporating such basic components to make the Website accessible would neither fundamentally alter the nature of Defendant’s business nor would it result in an undue burden to Defendant.



59. Defendant has violated the ADA -- and continues to violate the ADA -- by denying access to the Website by individuals such as Plaintiff with visual disabilities who require the assistance of interface with screen reader software to comprehend and access internet websites. These violations within the Website are ongoing.

60. The ADA requires that public accommodations and places of public accommodation ensure that communication is effective.

61. According to 28 C.F.R. §36.303(b)(1), auxiliary aids and services include “voice, text, and video-based telecommunications products and systems”. Indeed, 28 C.F.R. §36.303(b)(2) specifically states that screen reader software is an effective method of making visually delivered material available to individuals who are blind or have low vision.

62. According to 28 C.F.R. §36.303(c), public accommodations must furnish appropriate auxiliary aids and services where necessary to ensure effective communication with individuals with disabilities: “In order to be effective, auxiliary aids and services must be provided in accessible formats, in a timely manner, and in such a way as to protect the privacy and independence of the individual with a disability,” 28 C.F.R. §36.303(c)(1)(ii).

63. Part 36 of Title 28 of the C.F.R. was designed and is implemented to effectuate subtitle A of Title III of the ADA, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability by public accommodations, and requires places of public accommodation to be designed, constructed, and altered in compliance with the accessibility standards established by Part 36.

64. As alleged hereinabove, the Website has not been designed to interface with the widely and readily available technologies that can be used to ensure effective communication, and thus violates the ADA.

65. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's failure to provide an ADA compliant Website, with a nexus to its brick-and-mortar hotel, Plaintiff has suffered an injury in fact by being denied full access to, enjoyment of, and communication with Defendant's Website and physical hotel.

66. Because of the inadequate development and administration of the Website, Plaintiff is entitled to injunctive relief pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §12133 and 28 C.F.R. §36.303, to remedy the ongoing disability discrimination.

67. Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §12188, this Court is vested with the authority to grant Plaintiff appropriate and necessary injunctive relief, including an order to:

a) Require Defendant to adopt and implement a web accessibility policy to make publicly available, and directly link from the homepage of the Website, a functional statement of the policy to ensure persons with disabilities have full and equal access to and enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, and accommodations of the physicals hotel through the Website.

b) Require Defendant to take the necessary steps to make the Website readily accessible to and usable by blind and visually disabled users, and during that time period prior to the Website being made readily accessible, provide an alternative method for individuals with visual disabilities to access the information available on the Website until such time that the requisite modifications are made, and

c) Require Defendant to provide the appropriate auxiliary aids such that individuals with visual disabilities will be able to effectively communicate with the Website for purposes of viewing and locating Defendant's physical hotel and becoming informed of and purchasing Defendant's room accommodations and hotel services, and during that time period prior to the

Website being designed to permit individuals with visual disabilities to effectively communicate, to provide an alternative method for individuals with visual disabilities to effectively communicate for such goods and services made available to the general public through the Website and the physical hotel.

68. Plaintiff is entitled to recover his reasonable attorney's fees, costs, and expenses pursuant to the ADA. To that end, Plaintiff has been obligated to retain the undersigned counsel for the filing and prosecution of this action and has agreed to pay them a reasonable fee for their services.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff requests entry of judgment in his favor and against Defendant for the following relief:

- A. A declaration that Defendant's Website is in violation of the ADA;
- B. An Order requiring Defendant, by a date certain, to update the Website, and continue to monitor and update the Website on an ongoing basis, to remove barriers in order that individuals with visual disabilities can access, and continue to access, the Website and effectively communicate with the Website to the full extent required by Title III of the ADA;
- C. An Order requiring Defendant, by a date certain, to clearly display the universal disabled logo within the Website, wherein the logo<sup>1</sup> would lead to a page which would state Defendant's accessibility information, facts, policies, and accommodations. Such a clear display of the disabled logo is to ensure that individuals who are disabled are aware of the availability of the accessible features of the Website;

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<sup>1</sup>  or similar.

- D. An Order requiring Defendant, by a date certain, to provide ongoing support for web accessibility by implementing a Website accessibility coordinator, a Website application accessibility policy, and providing for Website accessibility feedback to ensure compliance thereto;
- E. An Order directing Defendant, by a date certain, to evaluate its policies, practices and procedures toward persons with disabilities, for such reasonable time to allow Defendant to undertake and complete corrective procedures to its Website;
- F. An Order directing Defendant, by a date certain, to establish a policy of web accessibility and accessibility features for the Website to ensure effective communication for individuals who are visually disabled;
- G. An Order requiring, by a date certain, that any third-party vendors who participate on Defendant's Website to be fully accessible to the visually disabled;
- H. An Order directing Defendant, by a date certain and at least once yearly thereafter, to provide mandatory web accessibility training to all employees who write or develop programs or code for, or who publish final content to, the Website on how to conform all web content and services with ADA accessibility requirements and applicable accessibility guidelines;
- I. An Order directing Defendant, by a date certain and at least once every three months thereafter, to conduct automated accessibility tests of the Website to identify any instances where the Website is no longer in conformance with the accessibility requirements of the ADA and any applicable accessibility guidelines, and further directing Defendant to send a copy of the twelve (12) quarterly reports to Plaintiff's counsel for review;

- J. An Order directing Defendant, by a date certain, to make publicly available and directly link from the Website homepage, a statement of Defendant's Accessibility Policy to ensure the persons with disabilities have full and equal enjoyment of the Website and shall accompany the public policy statement with an accessible means of submitting accessibility questions and problems;
- K. An award to Plaintiff of his reasonable attorney's fees, costs and expenses; and
- L. Such other and further relief as the Court deems just and equitable.

DATED: September 30, 2024.

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